

---

## FISCAL UPDATE Article

Fiscal Services Division

September 20, 2017



---

Ground Floor, State Capitol Building

Des Moines, Iowa 50319

515.281.3566

### COLLEGE STUDENT AID COMMISSION MEETING SEPTEMBER 2017

**Commission Meeting.** The College Student Aid Commission met in Des Moines on September 15, 2017. Director Karen Misjak updated the Commission in regard to the activities of the Commission staff, including the following:

- The Commission will be taking over production of the annual higher education enrollment report that is published each year by the Iowa Coordinating Council on Post High School Education. The Board of Regents office produced the report in the past.
- GEAR UP Iowa has put out a request for proposals (RFP) to offer ACT test preparation services to 10th grade students in Iowa school districts during the 2017-18 school year. School districts must opt into the program, and it is estimated that 8,200 students will be eligible.
- Director Misjak reviewed the findings from the Commission's annual audit. A summary of the audit and a link to the full report can be found [here](#).
- Commission staff has compiled final 2016-17 year-end data on each of the scholarship, grant, and loan repayment programs. A total of 22,701 scholarship and grant awards were made, totaling \$70.9 million. A total of 340 awards were provided to individuals employed in select high-need professions in Iowa, obligating \$3.8 million in loan repayment awards and cash bonuses. The final program data will be available on the Commission's [Higher Education Data Center](#) in the coming weeks.
- The Commission is using new meeting software that allows members to take digital notes. The notes are automatically deleted at the end of the meeting unless the member downloads them to a personal device or prints a hard copy. Assistant Attorney General Emily Willits responded to questions regarding whether those notes are subject to open records requests. Ms. Willits said that the notes have always been eligible for an open records request, regardless of format. She noted that it is up to members whether they retain their notes. The Commission has never required members to turn in their notes because there is no ongoing organizational need for it. Should a request for the notes be received, staff would contact members and ask them to turn in whatever notes they have that fulfill the request and it would be up to members to do so.

**Administrative Rules.** The Commission approved amendments to administrative rules as follows:

- Chapter 8: All Iowa Opportunity Scholarship
- Chapter 9: All Iowa Opportunity Foster Care Grant Program
- Chapter 11: Iowa Tuition Grant Program - For Profit Institutions

The rule changes are primarily in response to statutory changes made during the previous legislative session. The proposed rules are identical to those submitted under notice of intended action. All have been filed as "emergency after notice" because each affects administration of program for the current academic year.

**FY 2019 Budget Request and Legislative Report.** Julie Leeper, Executive Officer, noted that the Commission will not be proposing any legislative changes for the 2018 Legislative Session. She

presented the Commission's proposed FY 2019 budget to be submitted to the Department of Management (DOM). As in past years, the Commission staff has proposed a budget meeting the requirements set out by the DOM, as well as a proposed budget representing the priorities of Commission members (see below). The Commission voted unanimously to approve the proposals. Janet Adams, Chairperson of the Commission, will present the members' proposed budget at the Governor's budget hearing on November 13, 2017.

Iowa College Student Aid Commission Funding Requests for FY 2019			
Program	FY 2018 Appropriation	FY 2019 Agency Request	FY 2019 Commission Request
All Iowa Opportunity Scholarship	\$ 2,840,854	\$ 2,840,854	\$ 3,294,911
Health Care Professional Recruitment	400,973	400,973	400,973
College Work Study	0	0	1,250,000
National Guard Education Assistance	3,100,000	3,100,000	4,879,600
Teacher Shortage Loan Forgiveness	200,000	200,000	200,000
Tuition Grant - For Profit	1,500,000	1,500,000	1,500,000
Tuition Grant - Nonprofit	46,630,951	48,939,681	48,939,681
Vocational-Technical Tuition Grant	1,750,185	2,250,185	2,250,185
Registered Nurse/Nurse Educator Loan Forgiveness	200,000	200,000	200,000
Rural Iowa Primary Care Loan Repayment	1,124,502	1,600,000	1,600,000
Skilled Workforce Shortage Grant	5,000,000	5,000,000	5,000,000
Teach Iowa Scholar Program	400,000	400,000	400,000
Commission Administration	429,279	431,896	431,896
	<u>\$ 63,576,744</u>	<u>\$ 66,863,589</u>	<u>\$ 70,347,246</u>

**Other Action.** The Commission conducted the following business:

- Approved a second extension of a contract with the Department of Human Services for administration of the Education and Training Voucher (ETV) through September 30, 2018. The voucher program serves former foster youth who meet eligibility criteria.
- Approved changes to the Commission's bylaws to reflect changes in Commission membership and other technical updates.
- Reviewed final FY 2017 financial reports. Director Misjak noted that she is in the process of hiring a new accountant for the Agency and hopes to offer the position to someone very soon. It was also noted that the Commission must move from its offices when the current lease expires at the end of May 2018 because the rent is increasing. Iowa Workforce Development is also moving out of the building.
- Reviewed the status of postsecondary registration and Iowa SARA (State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement) applications.
- Reviewed a list of institutions eligible for the All Iowa Opportunity Scholarship and/or the Iowa Tuition Grant, including the accreditation status of each institution.
- Reviewed the Commission's 2016-2018 strategic plan, with Commission staff providing progress reports and future plans for each of the goals and strategies.

**Next Meeting.** The next meeting of the College Student Aid Commission is scheduled for November 17, 2017, in Des Moines.

**STAFF CONTACT:** Robin Madison (515.281.5270) [robin.madison@legis.iowa.gov](mailto:robin.madison@legis.iowa.gov)